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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/690,377	10/17/2000	Noboru Aiba	JG-KM-4818D	2920

7590 04/07/2003
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EXAMINER

TAWFIK, SAMEH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3721

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2003

20

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

N.K.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/690,377

Applicant(s)

AIBA ET AL.

Examiner

Sameh H. Tawfik

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

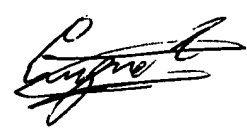
- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).


Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coplan et al. (4,017,030) in view of Sakurada et al. (5,993,843).

Coplan discloses a method for preparing an annular sustained release pheromone-dispenser whose end portions are connected to each other (Figs. 3a and 3b); comprising the steps of arranging a plurality of continuous plastic tubes (Figs. 3a and 3b) ^{wherein} which are filled with a liquid synthetic sex pheromone (Fig. 1); fusing them at a predetermined pitches by heating under a pressure and then cutting them at each fused portion to produce a dispenser composed of two side by side tubes having closely sealed both end portions (Figs. 3a and 3b; column 8, lines 53-57). Coplan does not disclose that pulling apart the center portion to separate the central portion of each tube from the central portion of the other tube. However, Sakurada discloses a similar method of preparing an annular sustained release pheromone dispenser comprising the step of pulling apart the central portion to separate the central portion of each tube from the central portion of the other tube, see for example (Fig. 1; via 18; column 14, lines 65-67 and column 15, lines 1 and 2) to provide a biodegradable sustained release preparation which can during application carry out sustained release of its active ingredient stably at a desired release rate for a long period of time (column 3, lines 50-55).

Art Unit: 3721

that letting --

Coplan does not clearly disclose the exact range of fusing the tubes at a range of 2 to 15 mm together at predetermined points. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Coplan's method for preparing an annular sustained release pheromone-dispenser by having the exact range of fusing the tubes at a range of 2 to 15 mm together at predetermined points, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Coplan's method for preparing an annular sustained release pheromone-dispenser by having the step of pulling apart the central portion to separate the central portion of each tube from the central portion of the other tube, as suggested by Sakurada, in order to provide a biodegradable sustained release preparation which can during application carry out sustained release of its active ingredient stably at a desired release rate for a long period of time.

Regarding claim 6: Coplan discloses the plurality of plastic tubes are fused by heating under pressure after sandwiching the portion to be fused between a pair of pieces made of a plastic (Figs. 12 and 13; column 8, lines 53-58).

Response to Arguments

Applicants argue in pages 2 and 3 of the arguments that Coplan's filament tube has one open end and one closed end. The examine believes that claim 9 is not clearly claiming sealing both ends of the tube. (claim 9, line 6) "...side by side tubes having closely sealed both end

Art Unit: 3721

portions..." could be understood as sealing both upper or lower ends of the side by side tubes and not necessarily the upper and lower ends of the tubes, the examiner believes that the claim is broad and what applicants arguing about is not clearly claimed. More over the examiner believes that Coplan's reference discloses closed sealing end and the other end been closed by (via meniscus 10).

Applicants further argue in page 2 of the arguments that Sakurada's reference does not disclose any information suggesting as to how this particular embodiment as shown in (Fig. 1; embodiment 18) can be obtained nor suggestion that the tubes are fused together along their entire length. The examiner believes that Sakurada's reference discloses the teaching of pulling apart the central portion to separate the central portion of each tube from the central portion of the other tube, but the teaching of tubes being fused together along their entire length is suggested by Coplan's reference. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Coplan's method for preparing an annular sustained release pheromone-dispenser by having the step of pulling apart the central portion to separate the central portion of each tube from the central portion of the other tube, as suggested by Sakurada, in order to provide a biodegradable sustained release preparation which can during application carry out sustained release of its active ingredient stably at a desired release rate for a long period of time.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3721


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sameh H. Tawfik whose telephone number is (703) 308-2809. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on (703) 308-2187. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3579 for regular communications and (703) 308-7769 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

ST.
April 3, 2003


EUGENE KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER